

2001: A SPACE  
ODYSSEY

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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BASED ON CONCEPTS  
FROM THE MGM/  
STANLEY KUBRICK  
PRODUCTION

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BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

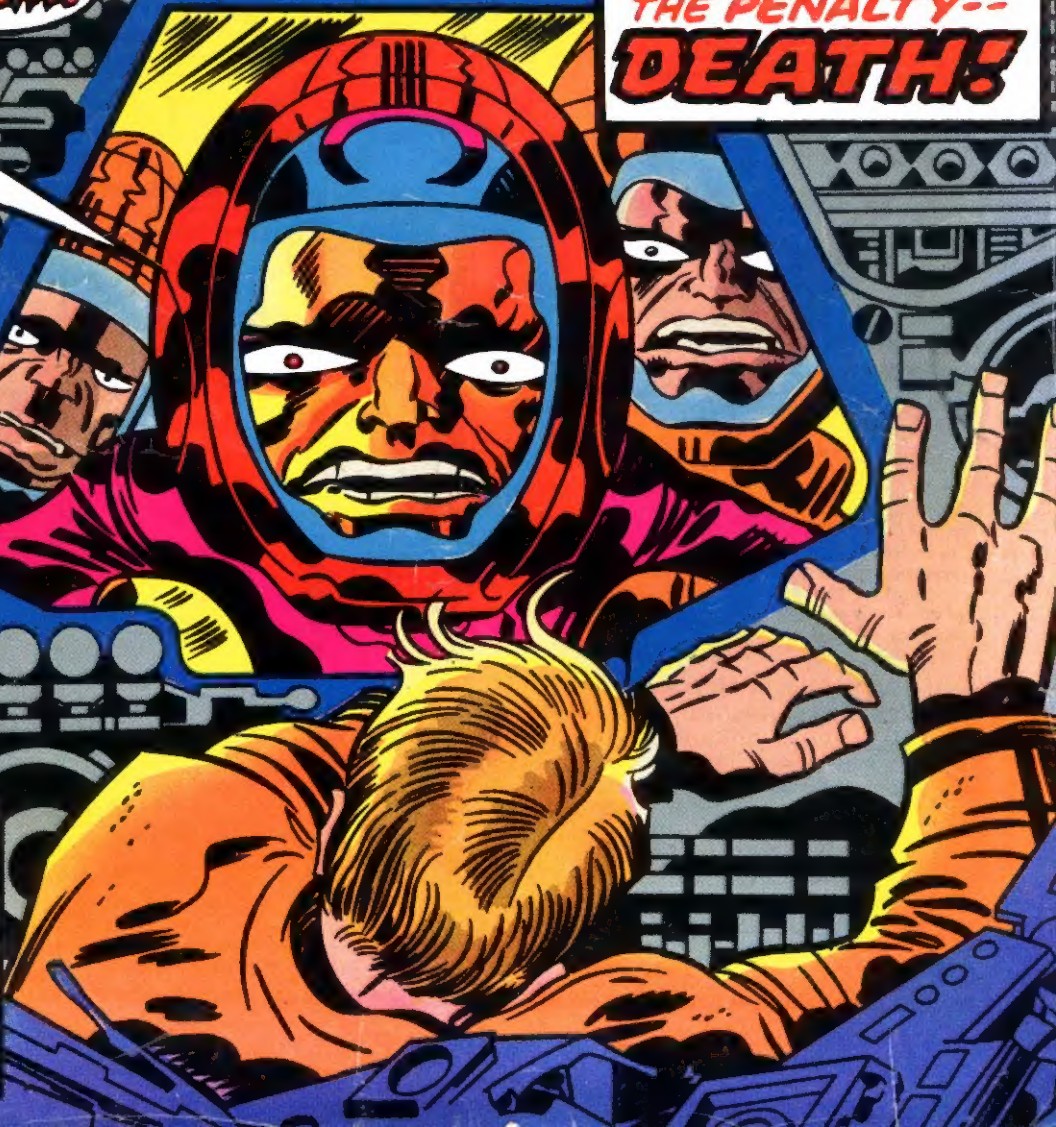
# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™



BEHOLD  
US, HARVEY  
NORTON--WE  
ARE **DOOM!**

FOR  
YOU--AND  
FOR YOUR  
PLANET  
EARTH!

JOIN AN AWESOME  
COSMIC MANHUNT!  
THE PRIZE--  
**IMMORTALITY!**  
THE PENALTY--  
**DEATH!**





STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY • INKED AND LETTERED BY MICHAEL W. ROYER • COLORED BY GEORGE ROUSSOS • OVERSEEN BY ARCHIE GODDWIN

**NAME: HARVEY NORTON OF NEW YORK 2040 A.D.**  
**OCCUPATION: DREAMER, COMIC FREAK, ASTRONAUT!**

**DESTINATION: WHEREVER THE ALIEN  
MONOLITH WILL TAKE HIM!**

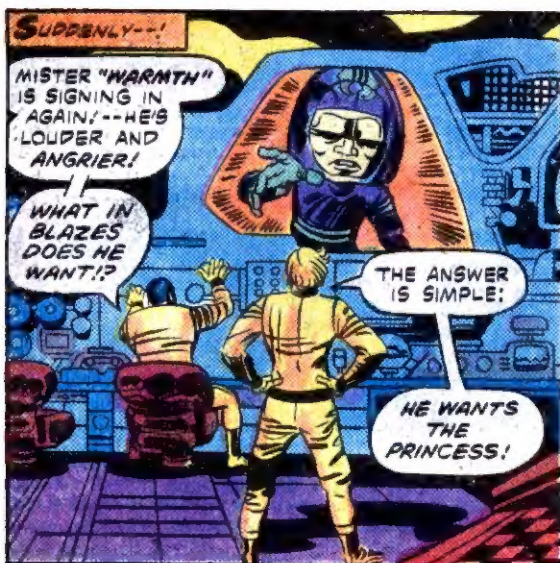
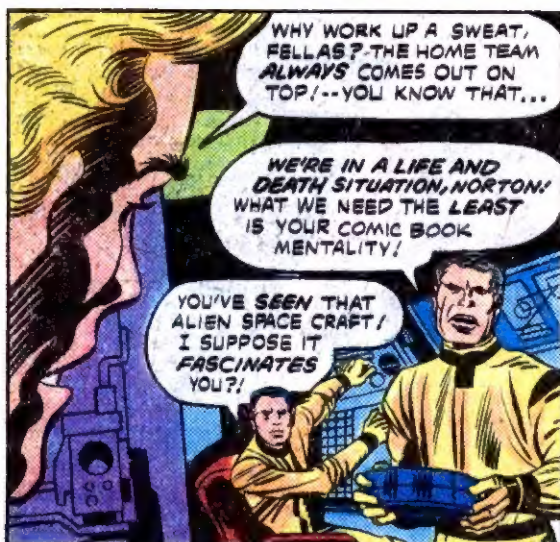
# INTER-GALACTICA

"THE ULTIMATE TRIP!!!"



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**NORTON MAKES A T.V. CHECK OF THEIR ALIEN GUEST...**

LOOK AT HER! SHE KNOWS WHO THOSE SPACE RATS ARE! SHE KNOWS WHY WE'VE TAKEN A PASTING!

NONSENSE! SHE'S FRIGHTENED! --LIKE THE REST OF US!

OF COURSE SHE IS! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE ENEMY!

SHE'S USED OUR SHIP FOR COVER! --AND NOW HER COVER IS BLOWN!

SOMEHOW THEY KNOW SHE'S ABOARD THIS CRAFT!

THAT'S SIMPLE TO UNDERSTAND! THEY'VE GOT "GIRL" DETECTORS!

**AT THAT INSTANT, A NEW AND STRONGER SALVO STRIKES THE EARTHLING VESSEL...**

**WAAHNN!**

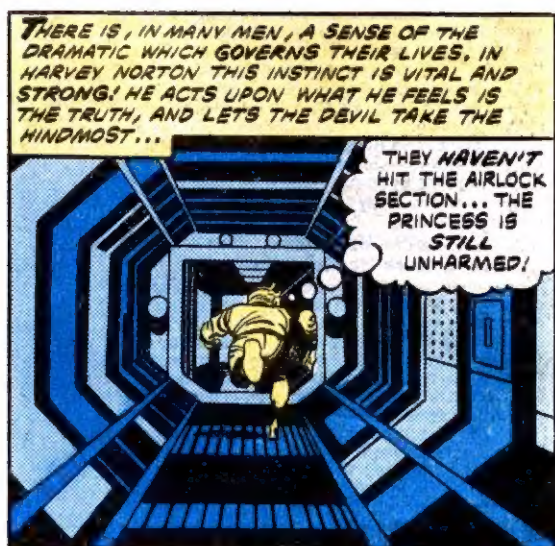
THEY'VE OPENED UP AGAIN!

NO TIME TO CHECK FOR DAMAGE! TRY TO REACH THE SPACE-SUITS!

I'VE GOT IT! IT'S THE GIRL'S CAPSULE! THEY'VE GOT A FIX ON HER CAPSULE! THAT'S HOW THEY KNOW SHE'S ON BOARD!

FORGET IT, NORTON! FIND A SPACE SUIT!







FOR A TERRIFYING INTERVAL, THE SPACE CRAFT IS POUNDED, UNTIL DESTRUCTION SEEMS A CERTAINTY. THEN... MIRACULOUSLY...

T-THEY'VE STOPPED FIRING! --A-AND WE'RE STILL BREATHING!

THIS CALLS FOR A FAST CHECK!

LET'S GO!!

SOMEHOW, WE'VE ESCAPED WITHOUT SERIOUS DAMAGE.

WAIT! LOOK OUT THERE! THE ALIEN SHIP IS GONE--!

I-IT'S GONE!

Y'KNOW, I-I'VE SUDDENLY GOT AN EERIE FEELING THAT NORTON KNOWS THE ANSWER! WE'VE GOT TO FIND NORTON!

A SEARCH FOR HARVEY NORTON, PROVES FRUIT-LESS. WHEN HIS FELLOW ASTRONAUTS REACH THE AIRLOCK SECTION, THEY FIND IT EMPTY...

NORTON-- THE ALIEN FEMALE-- AND HER SPACE CAPSULE-- THEY'RE NO LONGER ABOARD THIS CRAFT!

YOU NEEDN'T SPELL IT OUT... NORTON'S LAUNCHED OFF INTO SPACE WITH THAT--

THE FOOL EVEN LEFT A NOTE! -- AS IF HE HAD TO EXPLAIN HIS SPECIAL MADNESS TO US!

THE NOTE IS SIMPLE -- ITS LOGIC, SIMPLE. IT SUMS UP HARVEY NORTON... AND THE LARGE DREAMS IN LITTLE MEN...

IT SAYS:

"WHAT I'M DOING WILL TAKE THE HEAT OFF YOU FELLAS, AND GIVE THE PRINCESS A FIGHTING CHANCE... GOODBYE... GOOD LUCK... HARVEY..."

I-IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! --INCREDIBLE...

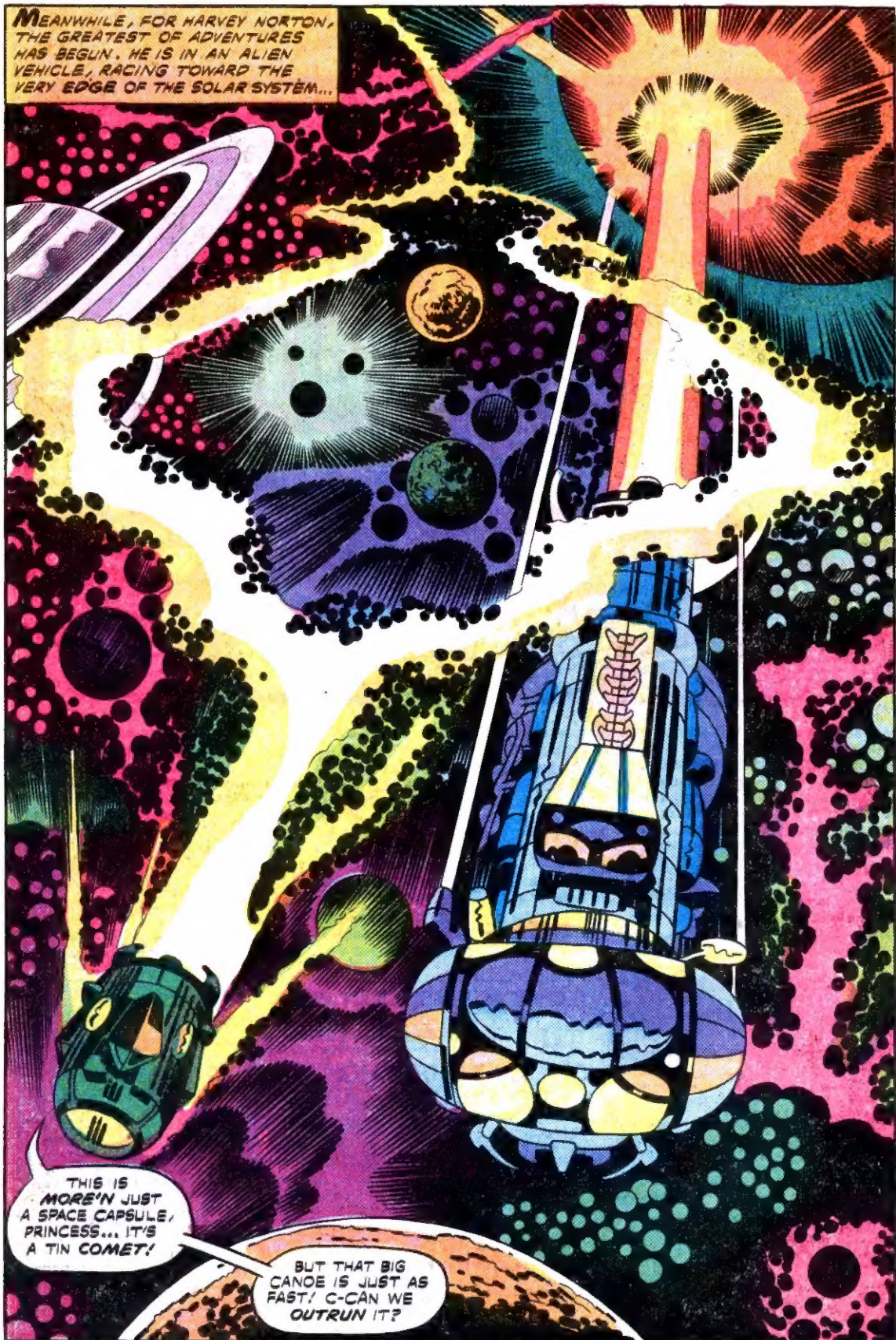
I-I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM OUT THERE!?

WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW...

I KNOW THIS--! HE WAS A DAMNED HERO!!!



MEANWHILE, FOR HARVEY NORTON,  
THE GREATEST OF ADVENTURES  
HAS BEGUN. HE IS IN AN ALIEN  
VEHICLE, RACING TOWARD THE  
VERY EDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM...



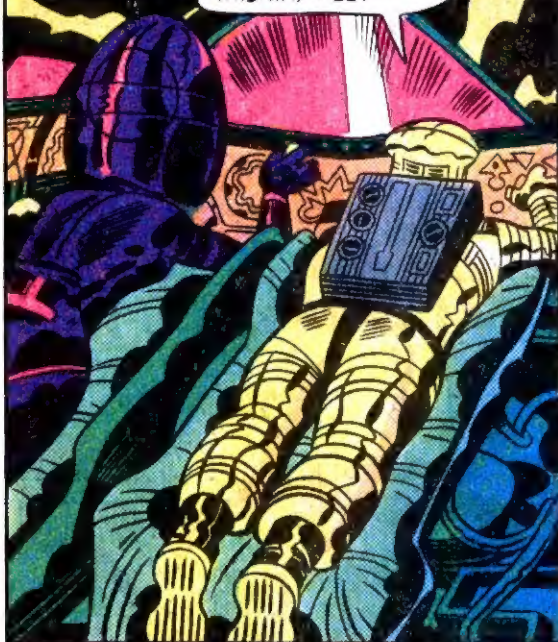
THIS IS  
MORE'N JUST  
A SPACE CAPSULE,  
PRINCESS... IT'S  
A TIN COMET!

BUT THAT BIG  
CANOE IS JUST AS  
FAST! C-CAN WE  
OUTRUN IT?



THE ALIEN GIRL MAKES NO REPLY. SHE IS MORE ABSORBED WITH THE CROSSING OF PLUTO'S ORBIT-- THAN CLOSING THE LANGUAGE GAP...

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU UNDERSTAND A **WORD** I'M SAYING? I-I FEEL MIGHTY STRANGE -- RATTLING ON THIS WAY -- BUT --



-- I AM THE PARTY WITH ALL THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ... LIKE, **WHAT'S YOUR NAME? WHERE DO YOU LIVE? WHY ARE THE "BAD GUYS" TRYING TO RUN YOU DOWN?**



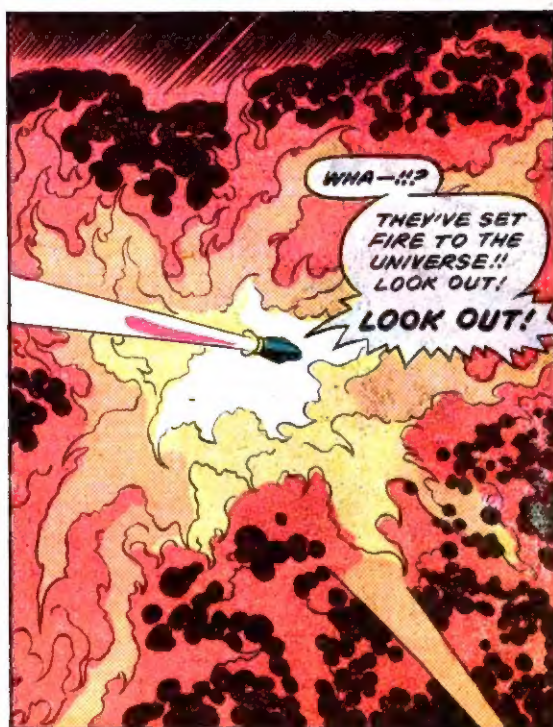
WELL... THAT'S **NOT** IMPORTANT, RIGHT NOW! WE MAY BE BLASTED INTO POWDER IN THE **NEXT** TEN SECONDS...

WHAT COUNTS IS OUR BEING **TOGETHER**-- TRUSTING EACH OTHER-- A DUDE AND A CHICK FROM **DIFFERENT** WORLDS!

I-IT'S A **MIND-BREAKER!**



**SUDDENLY, THE ENEMY ACTS! A MASS OF FLAMING ENERGY IS SPEWED A THOUSAND MILES INTO SPACE-- DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE FLEEING CAPSULE...**



WHA--!!?

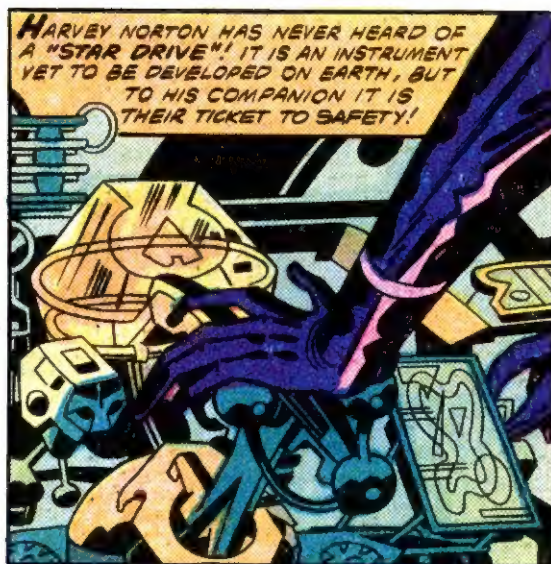
THEY'VE SET FIRE TO THE UNIVERSE!!  
**LOOK OUT!**  
**LOOK OUT!**



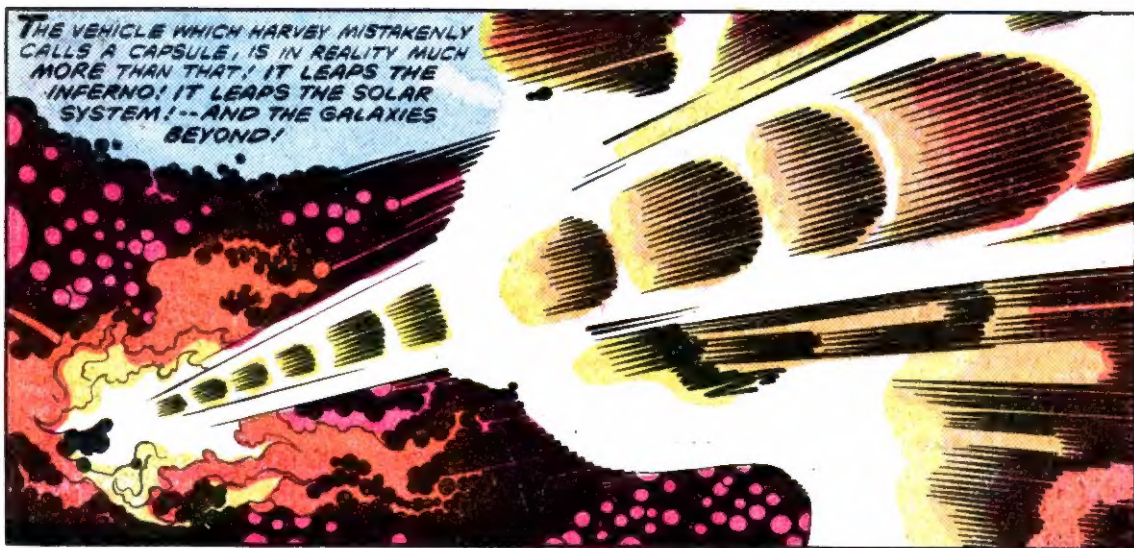


YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO CHANGE DIRECTION! --Y-YOU'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THAT INFERNO!

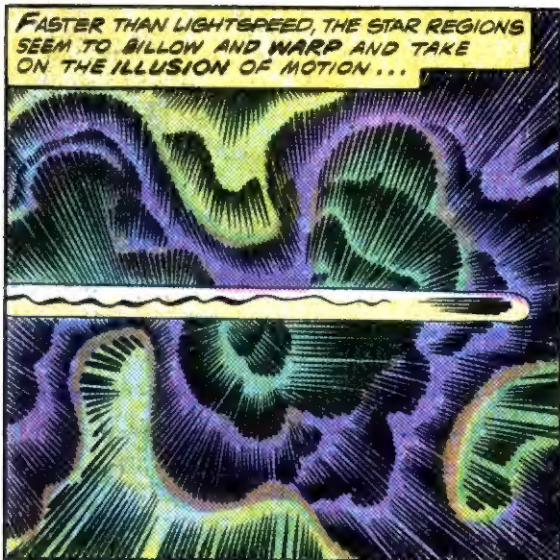
NO!  
NO!!



HARVEY NORTON HAS NEVER HEARD OF A "STAR DRIVE"! IT IS AN INSTRUMENT YET TO BE DEVELOPED ON EARTH, BUT TO HIS COMPANION IT IS THEIR TICKET TO SAFETY!



THE VEHICLE WHICH HARVEY MISTAKENLY CALLS A CAPSULE, IS IN REALITY MUCH MORE THAN THAT! IT LEAPS THE INFERNO! IT LEAPS THE SOLAR SYSTEM! --AND THE GALAXIES BEYOND!



FASTER THAN LIGHTSPEED, THE STAR REGIONS SEEM TO BILLOW AND WARP AND TAKE ON THE ILLUSION OF MOTION...



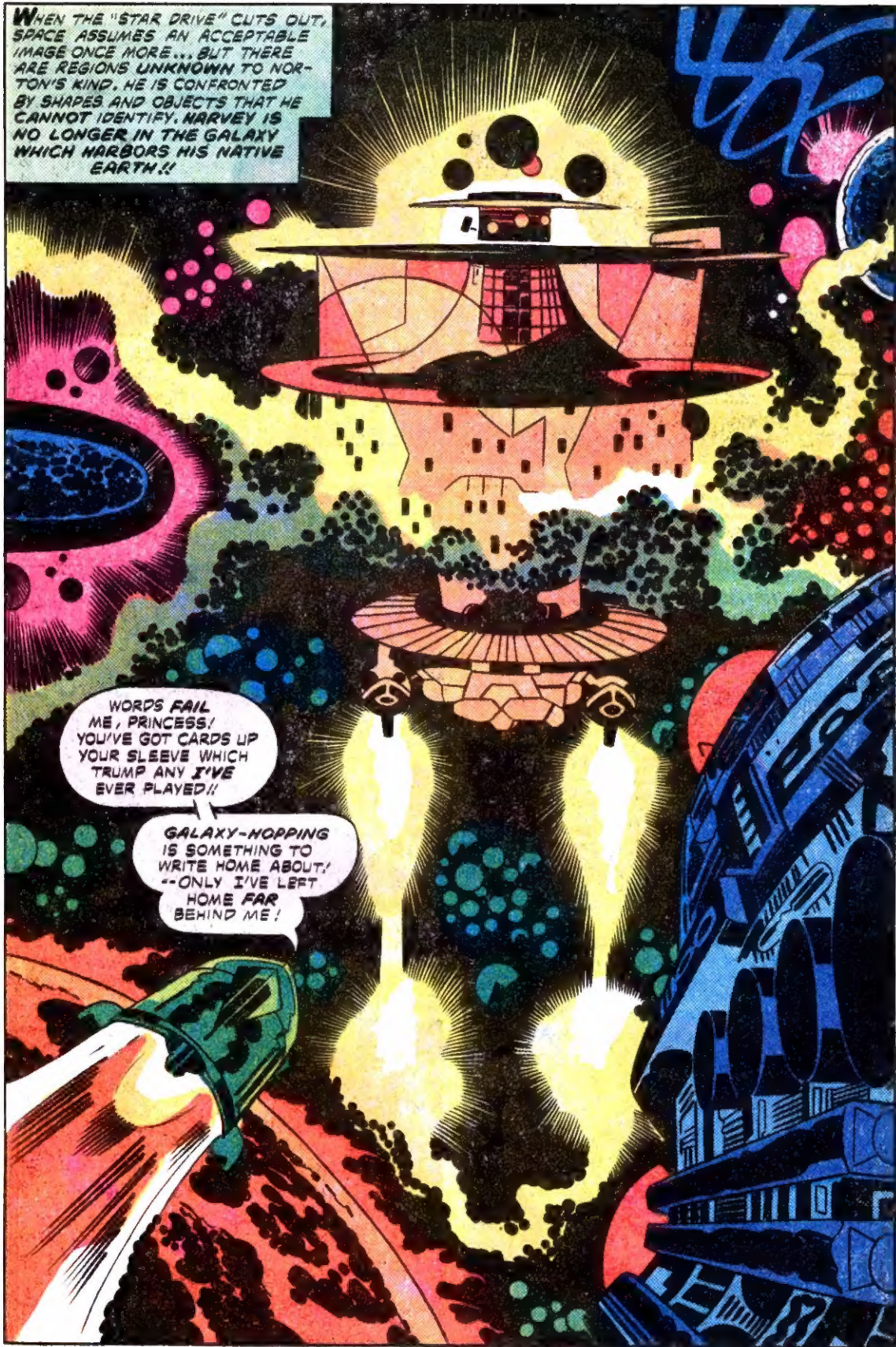
NORTON'S SENSES DESERT HIM! HE'S ALMOST UNHINGED BY THE TRAUMA OF ABJECT DIS-ORIENTATION! THE UNIVERSE HE KNOWS--IS NOT THE UNIVERSE HE SEES!



WHEN THE "STAR DRIVE" CUTS OUT, SPACE ASSUMES AN ACCEPTABLE IMAGE ONCE MORE... BUT THERE ARE REGIONS UNKNOWN TO NORTON'S KIND. HE IS CONFRONTED BY SHAPES AND OBJECTS THAT HE CANNOT IDENTIFY. HARVEY IS NO LONGER IN THE GALAXY WHICH HARBORS HIS NATIVE EARTH!!

WORDS FAIL ME, PRINCESS!  
YOU'VE GOT CARDS UP YOUR SLEEVE WHICH TRUMP ANY I'VE EVER PLAYED!!

GALAXY-HOPPING IS SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT!  
--ONLY I'VE LEFT HOME FAR BEHIND ME!





HARVEY HAS ABANDONED MORE THAN THAT. HIS DESTINY IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF A STRANGER--WHO SHOWS HIM UNTOLD MARVELS IN RETURN...

OH  
WOW!

THE SIGHTS IN THIS  
NECK OF THE WOODS ARE  
STAGGERING!

EVERY MAN IN THE  
SPACE PROGRAM  
WOULD GIVE HIS  
RIGHT ARM FOR  
THE CHANCE TO  
SEE THIS!

BUT THE GAME BEING PLAYED IN THE VAST GALACTIC WILDERNESS EXCLUDES THE JOY OF SIGHTSEEING. A GLANCE AT THE VISI-MONITOR REVEALS THE SINISTER IMAGE OF THE PURSUERS...

BAD NEWS, PRINCESS!  
THE GANG'S CAUGHT UP  
WITH US! WHAT  
NOW!?

THE "PRINCESS" ACTS QUICKLY! SHE EVADES DEADLY FLAK WHICH BURSTS NEAR HER TINY VEHICLE AND GUIDES IT TOWARD THE BARREN SURFACE OF A GIANT PLANET...

WAHOOM!

NO!  
NO!  
TURN  
BACK!

WAAM!

A FAST DESCENT IS FOLLOWED BY A HOUND'S AND HARE'S COURSE, CARRIED OUT AMIDST A CHAIN OF OMINOUS CRAGS WHICH THRUST UPWARD FROM THE LAND BELOW, LIKE STONY DAGGERS...

YOU'VE MADE A  
BAD MOVE,  
PRINCESS!  
--A BAD  
MOVE!

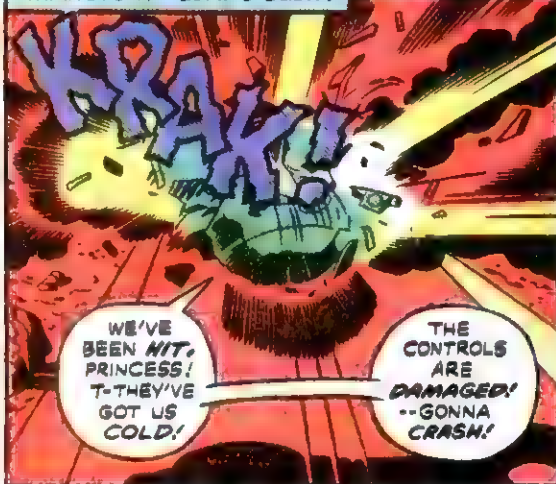
THEN, THE RUNWAY HEAVES INTO VIEW. IT IS LENGTHY AND OLD--AND AT ITS FARTHEST END STANDS A LARGE--  
STRUCTURE...

THEY'LL  
TRAP US HERE!  
DON'T YOU  
SEE!?

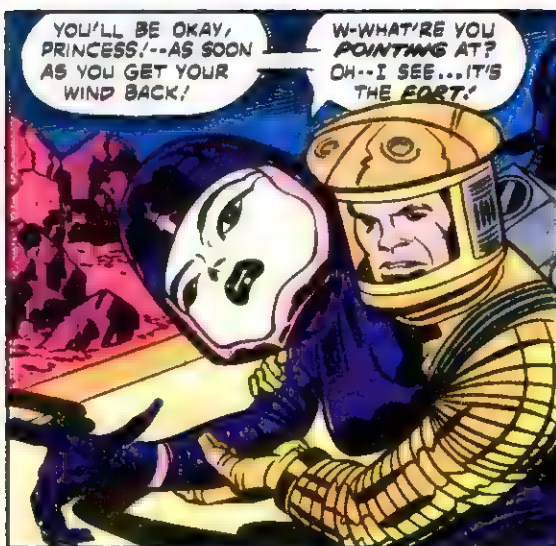
WE HAVEN'T  
A PRAYER OF  
HOLDING THEM  
OFF IN THAT--  
FORT--!



**SUDDENLY, THE SKY FLASHES WITH GRIM PORTENT! A LETHAL BEAM FINDS THE SMALL VEHICLE AND INFLECTS A TELLING BLOW!**

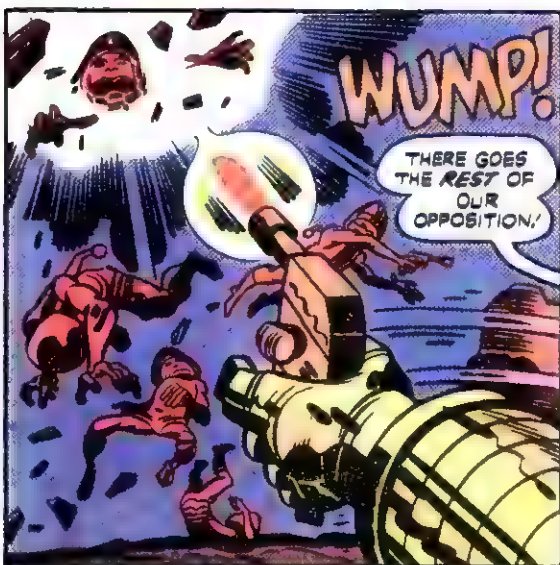
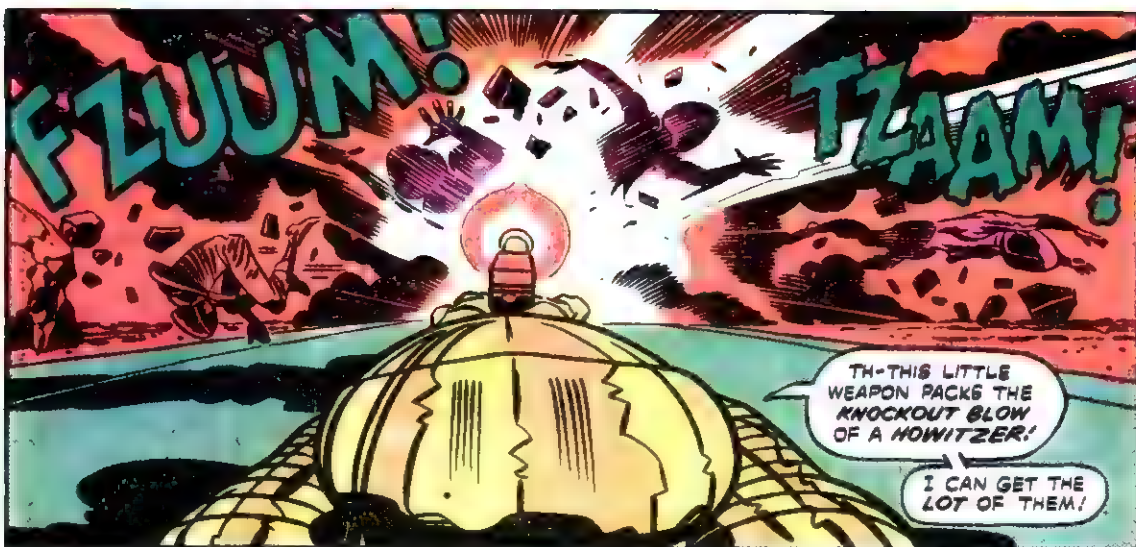
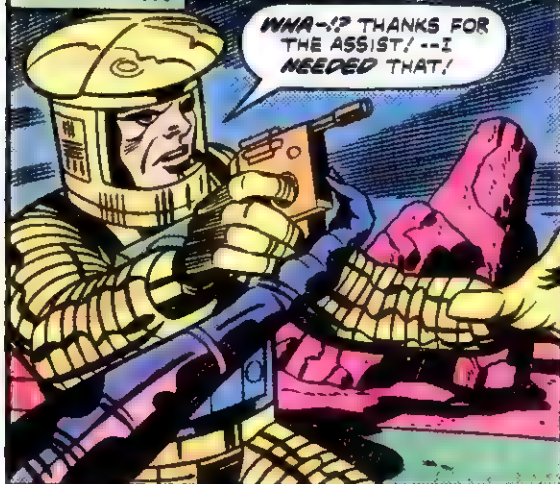


**THE VESSEL SHATTERS ON IMPACT WITH THE GROUND, AND BURSTS INTO FLAME. NORTON AND HIS COMPANION MANAGE TO SURVIVE THE WRECK...**





A WEAPON IS SUDDENLY THRUST INTO HARVEY'S HAND. THE PRINCESS HAS NOT RUN OUT OF OPTIONS...





UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE HOVERING ALIEN CRAFT, HARVEY MAKES A FINAL HEROIC EFFORT TO REACH THE SAFETY OF THE FORT...

THIS IS NOT A FORT, OF COURSE... BUT IT DOES OFFER A MANNER OF ESCAPE! ALL ONE HAS TO DO IS SUBJECT HIS BODY ATOMS TO THE COMPLEX AND CONSTANTLY OPERATIONAL "SENDING" MECHANISMS WITHIN ITS WALLS...

RELAX, PRINCESS. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF YARDS NOW--IF THE ENEMY DOESN'T HIT US WITH HEAVY STUFF, WE'VE GOT IT MADE!

THAT IS, UNTIL WE CAN THINK OF SOME KIND OF PLAN TO DISCOURAGE ANY FURTHER ATTACKS!

ONCE ACROSS THE THRESHOLD, NORTON PAUSES IN WONDER AT THE SIGHT OF THE MATTER TRANSMITTER. IT IS THE ONLY OBJECT OF NOTE IN THE VAST INTERIOR...

THERE ARE MANY SUCH STATIONS IN THE SURROUNDING GALAXIES. THEY ARE BUILT TO RELAY ONE'S ATOMIC PARTICLES TO SPECIFIC DESTINATIONS. IT IS A MODE OF TRAVEL AVAILABLE TO ALL SPACE TRAVELLERS...

SHE'S MOTIONING TO ME! I'M TO JOIN HER ON THAT PLATFORM--

I-I WONDER WHAT ITS FUNCTION IS? PERHAPS IT GENERATES A PROTECTIVE FORCE FIELD!

WE CERTAINLY CAN USE ONE--

W-WHAT IS THAT THING? CAN IT BE OF ANY HELP TO US?



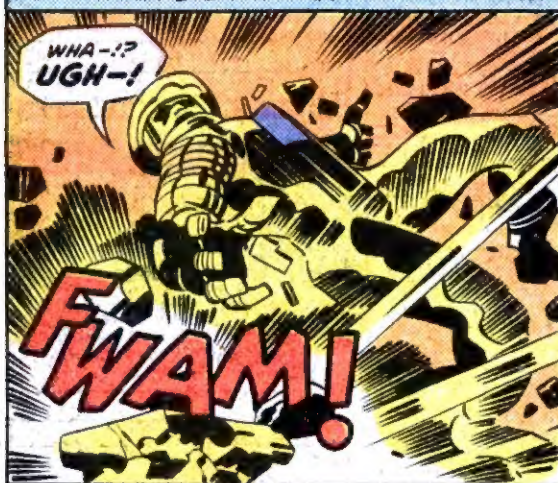
THE INVISIBLE WAVES OF THE "SENDING" MECHANISM ACT QUICKLY AND IRREVERSIBLY. THE PRINCESS BEGINS TO FADE LIKE A PHANTOM, IN THE LAST RAYS OF TWILIGHT...



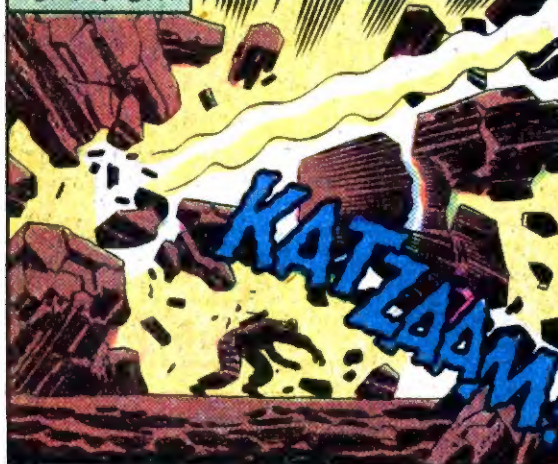
HARVEY NORTON GRASPS THE MEANING OF THIS PHENOMENON. THE DOORWAY TO ESCAPE IS OPEN--AND WAITING FOR HIM TO PASS THROUGH...



BUT FATE HAS PLANNED DIFFERENTLY FOR NORTON. HE NEVER REACHES THE PLATFORM...



A FRUSTRATED ENEMY DOES NOT TAKE DEFEAT EASILY. HE STABS THE "SENDING" STATION WITH LETHAL BOLTS. HE PULVERIZES IT, STONE BY STONE...

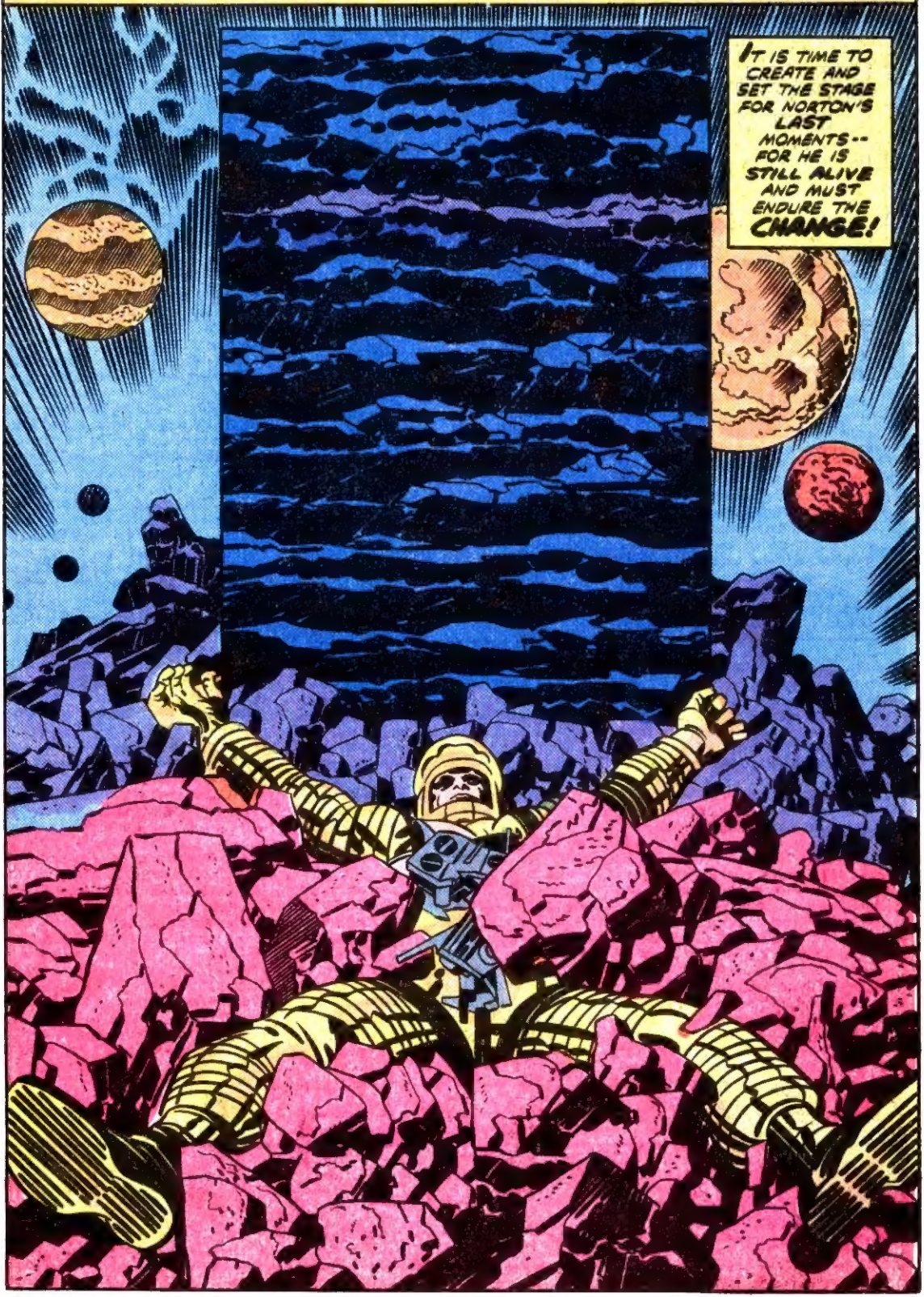


WHEN HIS DESTRUCTIVE WORK IS DONE, THE ENEMY DEPARTS. IN HIS WAKE HE LEAVES JAGGED SCARS, SCORCHED ROCK, AND THE BATTERED SHELL OF HARVEY NORTON...





**STRANGE SKIES DEEPEN WITH THE APPROACH OF NIGHT... AND THE MOONS OF AN ALIEN GALAXY RISE TO CAST THEIR EERIE GLOW IN THE TOMB-LIKE SILENCE. WHAT IS LEFT OF HARVEY NORTON'S ODYSSEY STANDS REVEALED IN THE STEAMING RUBBLE. THE MONOLITH IS, IN ITSELF, THE FINAL ACT AS WELL AS THE FINAL ACTOR IN A DESTINY PLAY WITH A MOST UNUSUAL ENDING...**



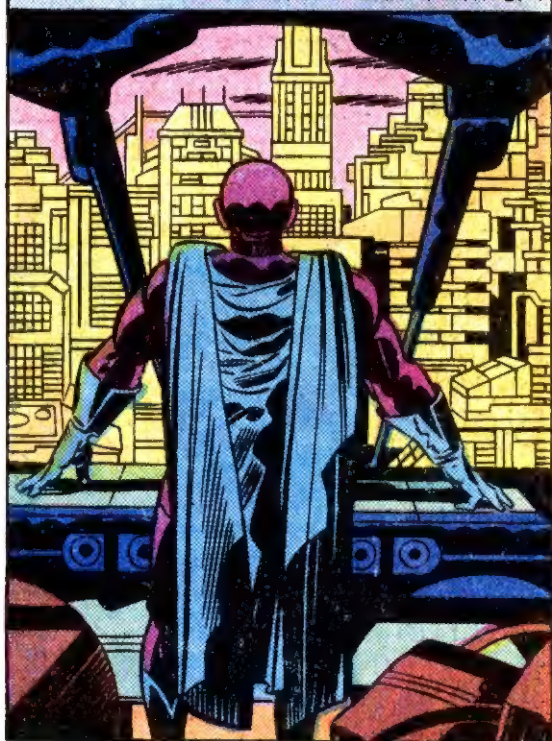
**IT IS TIME TO  
CREATE AND  
SET THE STAGE  
FOR NORTON'S  
LAST  
MOMENTS--  
FOR HE IS  
STILL ALIVE  
AND MUST  
ENDURE THE  
CHANGE!**



THE MONOLITH WORKS QUICKLY. IT CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH NORTON CAN LIVE OUT HIS FADING LIFE SPAN. IT FASHIONS THE LAIR AND TRAPPINGS OF THE TYPE OF PERSONALITY WHO HAS ALWAYS LIVED IN HARVEY'S HEART: THE SUPERHERO!



HE RISES TO GAZE OUT ONCE MORE AT THE CITY HE LOVES. IT STANDS CLEAN AND CLEAR AGAINST THE BRIGHTENING DAWN. IT COMMUNICATES A FEELING OF JOY AND GRATIFICATION.



HE TURNS FROM THE WINDOW AND PREPARES TO REST, UNAWARE THAT HE IS AGING RAPIDLY--BLISSFULLY IGNORANT OF THE GROWING WRINKLES... THE DRYING OF THE SKIN. CAPTAIN COSMIC LOOKS BACK UPON A LIFE OF GREAT ADVENTURE AND A NEVER-ENDING FUTURE OF JOUSTING AGAINST INJUSTICE...



ALAS, THE DREAM'S AS MORTAL AS THE MAN. THE GOOD CAPTAIN IS NOW QUITE OLD, AS HE SAGS INTO HIS FAVORITE ARMCHAIR. THE YEARS BEGIN TO WEIGHT HEAVIER WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT. FOR CAPTAIN COSMIC, THE DAY IS TRULY DONE...





THE MONOLITH APPEARS AS ONE ODYSSEY PASSES AND ANOTHER BEGINS...



FOR, WHAT WAS THIS MAN, BUT THE PREPARATION FOR A NEW SEED! AND WHAT IS THE NEW SEED, BUT MAN'S ADMISSION TO A WIDER UNIVERSE...



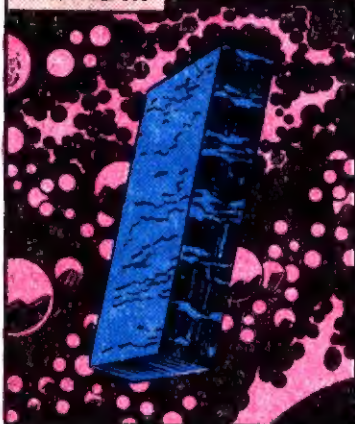
THE ATOMIC FILM WHICH NOW HIDES THE HUMAN SHELL FROM VIEW, FACILITATES THE TRANSFORMATION TAKING PLACE BENEATH...



THEN, THE CHANGE IS COMPLETE! A NEW SEED HAS EMERGED WHERE THE MAN HAD BEEN...



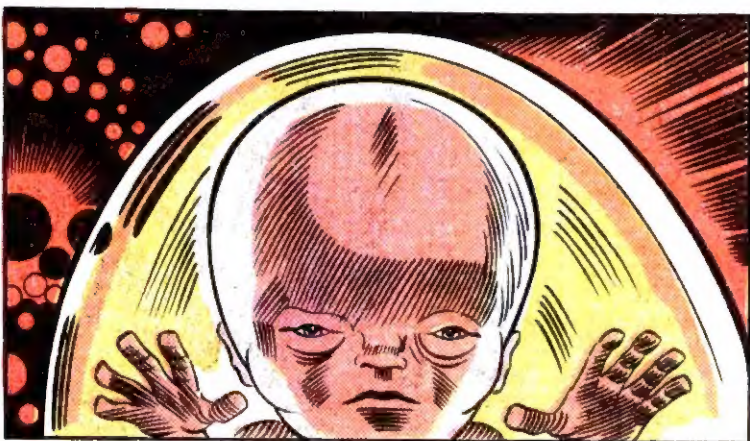
IT HAS TAKEN MERE MINUTES TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK. THE ENVIRONMENT VANISHES. THE MONOLITH WAITS PATIENTLY IN SPACE...



THE NEW SEED ADJUSTS HAPPILY TO ITS SURROUNDINGS. THE UNIVERSE IS A VAST HOME IN WHICH IT WILL LIVE AND THRIVE.



BEFORE IT DEPARTS TO FULFILL ITS DESTINY AMONG THE STARS, THE NEW SEED GAZES ENIGMATICALLY FROM ITS RADIANT POD. THERE IS A DEEP WISDOM IN ITS EYES--AND THE FORMING OF VITAL DECISIONS. WHEN THEY ARE MADE, IT WILL BE GONE...



MORE ABOUT THE NEW SEED! WHERE DOES IT GO? WHAT DOES IT DO? COMING NEXT!

# THE CHILD

ON SALE MARCH 22!